

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method at a phone-interface device, comprising:  
receiving a provisional-alarm report;  
determining whether a disarm command has been received subsequent to receipt of the provisional-alarm report; and  
when a disarm command has not been received before expiration of a period of time, sending a system condition to a monitoring station.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the provisional-alarm report is received via a wireless signal.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the wireless signal is a radio frequency signal.
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4. The method of claim 1, wherein sending the alarm condition further comprises:  
seizing a telephone line; and  
calling the monitoring station via the telephone line.
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5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
determining whether the calling element is successful, and when the calling element is not successful, sending the alarm condition to the monitoring station via an alternative communications link.
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6. A control panel, comprising  
a receiver to receive a sensor event from a security device;  
a controller to translate the sensor event into a system condition; and  
a transmitter to transmit a wireless signal to a phone-interface device, wherein the wireless signal encodes information regarding the system condition.

7. A phone-interface device, comprising:

a receiver to receive a wireless signal from a control panel, wherein the wireless signal encodes information regarding a system condition; and

a phone port to connect to a communications link, wherein the phone port is to dial a telephone number of a monitoring station in response to receiving the wireless signal.

8. The phone-interface device of claim 7, wherein the communications link is a telephone line.

9. The phone-interface device of claim 7, wherein the communications link is an ISDN line.

10. The phone-interface device of claim 7, wherein the communications link is wireless.

11. A phone-interface device, comprising:

a phone port to draw electrical energy from a phone line, wherein the phone port is part of a premise phone system, and wherein the electrical energy drawn from the phone line is within a current and voltage profile of the premise phone system.

12. The phone-interface device of claim 11, further comprising:

an energy storage device, wherein the electrical energy drawn from the phone line charges the energy storage device.

13. The phone-interface device of claim 12, wherein the energy storage device is a battery.

14. The phone-interface device of claim 12, wherein the energy storage device is a capacitor.

15. The phone-interface device of claim 12, wherein the electrical energy is drawn from the phone line during a phone line state of ringing.

16. The phone-interface device of claim 12, wherein the electrical energy is drawn while a premise phone is off-hook.

17. The phone-interface device of claim 12, wherein the electrical energy is drawn while the phone port checks the line for proper voltages and currents.

18. The phone-interface device of claim 12, wherein the electrical energy is drawn while the phone port is dialing.

19. The phone-interface device of claim 12, wherein the electrical energy is drawn during a connected call.

20. The phone-interface device of claim 12, wherein the electrical energy is drawn after an off-premise call has hung up.

21. A security system, comprising:

a control panel to receive a sensor event from a security device, to translate the sensor event into a system condition, and to transmit a wireless signal to a phone-interface device, wherein the wireless signal encodes information regarding the system condition; and

a phone-interface device to receive the wireless signal from the control panel, wherein the phone-interface device is packaged separately from the control panel.

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22. The security system of claim 21, wherein the phone-interface further comprises a phone port to connect to a telephone line, wherein the phone port is to dial a telephone number of a monitoring station in response to receiving the wireless signal.

23. The security system of claim 21, wherein the control panel receives alternating electric current.

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24. The security system of claim 21, wherein the phone-interface device receives direct electric current from an energy storage device.

15 25. The security system of claim 24, wherein the energy storage device comprises a battery.

26. The security system of claim 24, wherein the energy storage device comprises a capacitor.

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27. The security system of claim 21, wherein the phone-interface device receives electrical power from a telephone line.

28. The security system of claim 21, wherein the phone-interface device is mounted in a separate enclosure from the control panel.

25 29. The security system of 21, wherein the phone-interface device is mounted in a separate enclosure from an input device.

30. The security system of 21, wherein the phone-interface device is mounted in a separate enclosure from a siren.

31. A program product comprising a signal-bearing media bearing instructions,  
5 which when read and executed by a processor, comprise:

receiving a provisional-alarm report;

determining whether a disarm command has been received subsequent to receipt of the provisional-alarm report; and

when a disarm command has not been received before expiration of a period  
10 of time, sending a system condition to a monitoring station.

32. The program product of claim 31, wherein the provisional-alarm report is received via a wireless signal.

33. The program product of claim 32, wherein the wireless signal is a radio  
15 frequency signal.

34. The program product of claim 31, wherein sending the alarm condition further comprises:

20 seizing a telephone line; and

calling the monitoring station via the telephone line.

35. The program product of claim 34, wherein the instructions further comprise:

determining whether the calling is successful, and when the calling is not  
25 successful, sending the alarm condition to the monitoring station via an alternative communications link.